

Message Text

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN SERVICE
POSTS AND COMMERCE DISTRICT OFFICES

REFERENCE:STATE 202051 (NOTAL)

1. WE RECENTLY POLLED SEVERAL POSTS ON A PROPOSAL TO ALLOW LIMITED DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN POSTS AND COMMERCE DISTRICT OFFICES (DOS). THIS TOPIC WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AT THE ARA REGIONAL ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCES RECENTLY HELD IN SAN JUAN AND MEXICO CITY. THE CONSENSUS REACHED AS A RESULT OF THESE EXCHANGES IS SUMMARIZED BELOW:

A. DIRECT TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN F.S. POSTS AND D.O.'S SHOULD BE PERMITTED WHEN MATTERS OF AN URGENT OPERATIONAL NATURE ARE INVOLVED - SUCH AS LAST MINUTE TRAVEL
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SCHEDULE CHANGES OR NOTIFICATION OF ITINERARIES. STATE AND

COMMERCE SHOULD BE DESIGNATED FOR INFO COPIES IN SUCH CASES.

B. DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN POSTS ABROAD AND D.O.S
SHOULD NOT INVOLVE IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OR MATTERS

REQUIRING SIGNIFICANT POST OR D.O. ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.
EXAMPLES OF SUBJECTS TO BE EXPLICITLY EXCLUDED FROM DIRECT
COMMUNICATIONS WOULD BE REQUESTS TO THE POSTS FOR MARKET
STUDIES, CHANGES IN CCP OR MATTERS DEALING IN A SUBSTANTIVE
WAY WITH CCP ACTIVITIES, AND POLICY QUESTIONS.

C. DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OVERSEAS POSTS AND D.O.S
SHOULD ALSO NOT OCCUR WHEN BUSINESS SERVICE PROGRAMS
COORDINATED BY COMMERCE WASHINGTON ARE INVOLVED, SUCH AS
ADS FOLLOW-UPS, TRADE COMPLAINTS, TRADE INQUIRIES AND
DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE REQUESTS EXCEPT IN CASES OF EXTREME
URGENCY. IN THAT CASE, THE PROCEDURE IN PARA 1A ABOVE
SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.

D. BEFORE INSTITUTING ANY SYSTEM OF DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS,
IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO UNDERTAKE A PILOT PROGRAM TO
EVALUATE ITS USEFULNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS AND TO PIN-
POINT ANY UNFORESEEN PROBLEMS.

2. POSTS WILL BE ADVISED OF THE OUTCOME OF CURRENT
STATE-COMMERCE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS LATTER QUESTION. KISSINGER

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